

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-26 as follows. Please note the following amendments are based on the AMENDED CLAIM SHEETS of the International Preliminary Examination Report.

1. (currently amended) A device for protection against adverse weather conditions, comprising[[:]] a framework ~~comprising~~ including a main support strut (41) and a plurality of additional support struts, ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ wherein the additional support struts ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ can be fanned out from a storable configuration where they are substantially in alignment with one another to an erect configuration where each additional strut ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ extends radially at a different rotational position to encircle a centre point about which all the struts ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ are pivotable, a sheet of weather resistant material ~~(16)~~ mounted on the frame, the sheet of weather resistant material ~~(16)~~ forming, when the frame is in its erect configuration, a protective cover which can be positioned over a user to protect against adverse weather conditions, wherein, when erect, the frame is supported by a handle (42) which extends from a support strut (41) at a position which is spaced apart from the centre of the erected frame, characterised in that the main support strut (41) and the plurality of additional support struts ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ are connected by a series of flexible links in the form of live hinges.
2. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the handle (42) extends from a position which is at or adjacent to an outer edge of the protective cover.
3. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2 wherein~~ further comprising a cap provided on the circle formed by the live hinges when the frame is erect ~~is capped~~.

4. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the ~~domed cap (82)~~ includes-comprises a plug (81)-receivable in a socket (71)-provided within the circle formed by the live hinges.
5. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the frame and the cap (82)-comprise the same material.
6. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding~~-claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a plastics material.
7. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding~~-claim 1 wherein the plastics material is selected from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or a[[,]] polyethylene (PE), or a polypropylene (PP).
8. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 7~~ wherein the handle (42)-is ~~itself hinged and/or~~ is hingedly connected to a strut.
9. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 8~~ wherein the handle (42)-is connected to the main support strut-(41).
10. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding~~-claim 1 wherein the handle (42)-is at least in part, telescopically extendable and retractable.
11. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 10~~ wherein the additional support struts (~~S1, S2, S3...~~)-fan out in a substantially horizontal plane.

12. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 11~~ wherein the additional support struts (~~S1, S2, S3...~~) are arranged to fan out at an angle to the horizontal so as to provide a substantially ~~dome~~ domed or cone shaped surface over which the sheet of weather resistant material (~~16~~) is stretched.
13. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the sheet of weather resistant material (~~16~~) includes a flap at either or both of its ends which meet when the device is fanned out to ~~its~~ a fully erect configuration.
14. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 13 wherein the flap ~~or flaps~~ are ~~is~~ fixable onto ~~the~~ an opposite end of the sheet so as to provide a leak proof join between the ends of the sheet when the device is in its fully erect configuration.
15. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 13 ~~or claim 14~~ wherein the flaps are fixable by means selected from press studs, hook and eye or Velcro™.
16. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the sheet of weather resistant material (~~16~~) is water resistant.
17. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the sheet of weather resistant material (~~16~~) is substantially opaque.
18. (currently amended) A device as claimed, in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the sheet of weather resistant material (~~16~~) mounted on the frame comprises a continuous sheet.
19. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the ~~framework~~ is provided with one or more locking mechanisms for locking the erected framework into position.

20. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the one or more locking mechanisms comprises a catch ~~(63)~~ configured for securing the main support strut (41) to an additional support strut ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ when the support struts ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ have been fanned out.
21. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the ~~framework is provided~~ further comprises with one or more locking mechanisms for locking the handle portion in ~~its~~ a desired position for holding the device.
22. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 further comprises ~~wherein the device includes~~ one or more locking mechanisms for locking the device in ~~its~~ a storable configuration for ease of storage and transportation.
23. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the handle ~~(42)~~ is detachably connected to the frame.
24. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the handle ~~(42)~~ is provided at one end with a collet ~~(62)~~ which is receivable in a collar ~~(43)~~ provided on the frame and is resiliency biased, when inserted into the collar ~~(43)~~, to grip the collar ~~(43)~~ from the inside.
25. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 24 wherein the collet ~~(62)~~ has a ridged or flanged end which, when the handle ~~(42)~~ is pulled so as to remove the collet ~~(62)~~ from the collar without first radially contracting the collet ~~(62)~~, tends to resist removal of the handle ~~(42)~~.
26. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the additional struts ~~(S1, S2, S3...)~~ include a terminal strut ~~(S8)~~ which meets with the main strut ~~(41)~~, the main ~~(41)~~ and terminal ~~(S8)~~ struts being provided respectively with an upper ~~(41a)~~ and a lower surface ~~(S8a)~~ shaped to engage with the opposed surface of the other strut, each of these struts having a protrusion ~~(41b, S8b)~~ extending from the end of the strut furthest removed from the common axis the

| protrusions each being provided with a ribbed surface (~~41e, S8e~~) and being configured to provide a convenient gripping means which may be used by a user erecting the frame to draw the main and terminal struts together with a one handed grip.